

In 1962 On a Saturday Evening, Old Fashioned Diplomacy Saved The World



Donald J. Trump and the Iranians failed in 2025, where John F. Kennedy and the Russians succeeded in 1962.

According to the newspaper Axios, President Trump, with Turkey's President Erdoğan as negotiator, failed to get Iran's supreme leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei to approve a meeting between Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and Trump himself in Istanbul.

This situation has many similarities with the informal negotiations between the Soviet Union and the USA in 1962, when a secret agreement between then US President John F. Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev ensured a de-escalation at the last second, which *spoiler alert* prevented nuclear war.

But the path to the solution was challenging. Interestingly, Turkey was also involved in 1962, when the Soviet Union formally demanded that the USA withdraw its Jupiter missiles from

Turkey in exchange for the Soviet Union withdrawing nuclear weapons from Cuba. The demand was interpreted as an escalation and a condition the USA could not accept.

At least not officially.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

U. S. Weather Bureau Report (Page 10) Forecast:
Partly cloudy, breezy, cool today.
Fair and cool tonight and tomorrow.
Temp. range: 54-67; yesterday: 66-64.

VOL. CXII, No. 38,258.

© 1962 by The New York Times Company
Times Square, New York 10, N. Y.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1962.

13 cents (except 10-cents rate from New York City
except on long island, higher in air delivery rates).

FIVE CENTS

U.S. IMPOSES ARMS BLOCKADE ON CUBA ON FINDING OFFENSIVE-MISSILE SITES; KENNEDY READY FOR SOVIET SHOWDOWN

U. S. JUDGES GIVEN POWER TO REQUIRE VOTE FOR NEGROES

High Court Upholds Order
Forcing the Registration of
54 in Alabama County

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — The Supreme Court held today that Federal judges have the power to make state registrars put specific Negroes on the voting rolls.

Alabama had challenged an order by Federal District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. requiring the registration of 54 specific Negroes in Macon County, Ala. The order was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Today the Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the disputed order. And it did so in a way that indicated once again its mood of impatience with Southern efforts to maintain

Chinese Open New Front; Use Tanks Against Indians

Nehru Warns of Peril to Independence
—Reds Attack Near Burmese Border
and Press Two Other Drives

Special to The New York Times
NEW DELHI, Oct. 22 — Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru today told the people of India tonight that the Chinese Communist attack was a threat to their liberty.

His grave warning followed word that the advancing Chinese had opened a third front in the Himalayas, near the Burmese border, and had used tanks for the first time. Five more Indian posts fell to the Chinese on the third day of savage fighting.

[A bid for negotiations for a peace accord was broadcast by the Chinese Communist radio early Tuesday. The Associated Press reported from Tokyo.]

In a broadcast, Mr. Nehru announced the Chinese action as

SHIPS MUST STOP Other Action Planned If Big Rockets Are Not Dismantled

By JAMES RESTON
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — President Kennedy drew the line tonight, not with Cuba, but with the Soviet Union. After almost a generation of trying to keep the "cold war" from reaching a direct confrontation between United States and Soviet power, a decision has been made to force Soviet missile bases from this hemisphere at the risk of war.

This is the official interpretation of President Kennedy's speech tonight, and the orders to American forces bear it out. On the highest authority, it can be said that these orders include the following:

Ships carrying to Cuba weapons capable of striking the continental United States must either turn back or submit to search and seizure, or fight.



ANNOUNCES HIS ACTION: President Kennedy speaking to the nation last night on radio and television. He told of moves to keep offensive equipment away from Cuba.

Associated Press Wirephoto

PRESIDENT GRAVE Asserts Russians Lied and Put Hemisphere in Great Danger

Text of the President's address to printed on Page 18.

By ANTHONY LEWIS
Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — President Kennedy imposed a naval and air "quarantine" tonight on the shipment of offensive military equipment to Cuba.

In a speech of extraordinary gravity, he told the American people that the Soviet Union, contrary to promises, was building offensive missile and bomber bases in Cuba. He said the bases could handle missiles carrying nuclear warheads up to 2,600 miles.

This a critical moment in the cold war as at hand tonight. The President had decided on a direct confrontation with — and challenge to — the image of the Soviet Union.

TRAFFIC DELAYED AT BERLIN BORDER

Moscow Says U.S. Holds 'Armed Fist' Over Cuba

In 2025, neither the USA nor Israel seems particularly interested in subtle solutions, but seems to prefer shows of strength. Trump may be especially motivated after "TACO", while Netanyahu may be motivated by possible imprisonment through peace.

Last Monday, a major meeting was planned in Istanbul, but it was canceled without the approval of supreme leader Khamenei. Trump and Netanyahu have both openly talked about the possibilities of assassination attempts on Khamenei.

This understandably sent Khamenei into hiding, and when the White House and Erdoğan desperately needed a "deal" at the last minute, even Iran had no channel to a terrified Khamenei.

Without this, a deal was not possible, and it ended with bomb attacks on Iran.

Such an attack Carter, Reagan, Bush 1, Clinton, Bush 2, Obama, Trump v1, and Biden all managed to avoid after the revolution in 1978/79.

After almost 50 years of diplomatic work, bullets and gunpowder were the only option.

This stands in significant contrast to the solution John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy found to their problem late on the evening of Saturday, October 27, 1962. They used the Soviet ambassador in Washington Anatoly Dobrynin to communicate a settlement indirectly to Moscow.



This was at a time when no parties trusted each other and the consequences of mistakes were total annihilation. One of the keys in this negotiation was the existing friendly tone between RFK and Dobrynin. Just old-fashioned diplomacy.

JFK had already found creative solutions to avoid nuclear war. Instead of a direct attack on Cuba, which almost certainly would have escalated to nuclear war, he chose to introduce something more nuanced in the form of a blockade of the island nation. Today sanctions are common, but in 1962 this was innovation.

The solution RFK presented to the ambassador was complicated. It was a two-part agreement, with a private promise from the USA to remove the Jupiter missiles from Turkey, in exchange for the Soviet Union withdrawing nuclear weapons from Cuba.

The Soviet Union accepted, and they then had a historic, elegant solution to a historically big problem.

We don't have anything like that in 2025.